

# Record

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## 'High energy' BSUs invade Md./Del.

By Tim Nicholas  
MBCB Staff Writer

*Editor's note: Spring break! Sleep late? Not for hundreds of Mississippi Baptist Student Union (BSU) members who scattered across the country during their spring break to take advantage of missions opportunities. BSUs traveled to Maryland and Delaware, where Mississippi Baptists enjoy a partnership relationship with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, to participate in partnership missions projects involving on-campus witnessing, music, inner city ministry, and church and camp renovations. Following is the first of a three-part series.*

Mississippi Baptist students "bring such a high sense of energy — they come saying, 'We really want to make a difference,'" said Ron Brown, director of the Center for Innovative Leadership for Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware.

Brown is also responsible for what is called Baptist Campus Ministry (BCM) in the Maryland/Delaware convention. He assigned about 100 Mississippi BSUs to several university campuses during spring break to "try to raise the image of BCM on campus."

Brown said prayer walking around a campus gives the local ministry workers opportunities for future relationships. "It's like building a prospect file," he said.

Morris "Mo" Baker, BSU director at Pearl River Community College at Poplarville, said his students shared Christ with about 200 people during their trip to the University of Delaware at Newark.

Though one student professed Christ, "the vast majority had no insight on spiritual matters," said Baker. "It's almost as if they never spent time thinking about life, death, and eternity."

However, the results of the trip continue to develop, said Baker. Nearly all the Mississippi students have agreed to memorize Scripture for evangelism upon returning to their home state.

"Some have committed to sharing on campus for one hour a week and a result of that is we've already seen one profession of faith," said Baker.

Also, between eight and 10



YOU'RE INVITED — Melissa Edwards (seated, left) of Jackson, Chris Robertson (seated, right) of Vicksburg, and guitarist Tyler Rayborn (background) of Jackson — members of the Baptist Student Union at Hinds Community College in Raymond — drum up publicity for a free concert the Hinds Community College and Towson University Baptist students held on the Towson campus in Maryland. (Photo By Tim Nicholas)

Delaware students are in the Poplarville area Mar. 27-31 to share Christ during their spring break. Baker said the witnessing will center around a game called "whiffle ball," ultimate Frisbee tournaments, and a coffee-house.

Blake Hardcastle, BCM director at the University of Delaware, said he hoped the Mississippi students would "create momentum for us. It's exciting to have 15 more students come to things we do."

Besides regular Bible studies, Hardcastle's approach to student work includes twice-monthly "food nights" from six p.m. to midnight. A local Baptist church cooks a meal, regular attendees invite non-involved friends, and then there's either a hayride, trip to a basketball game, or table games.

Explaining the interest in table games, Hardcastle said, "Everything they liked in second grade... they like it again."

A BSU group from Hinds Community College in Raymond

visited three Maryland campuses to witness and hold concerts. The BSU's praise band and women's ensemble performed at the University of Maryland's Baltimore County and College Park campuses, and at Towson University at Baltimore.

Before the evening concerts, students handed out hundreds of flyers and lollipops with Scripture attached.



MINISTERING IN MARYLAND — Ashley Skelton (center) of Utica, a Baptist Student Union member at Hinds Community College in Raymond, hands out flyers and lollipops promoting a Christian concert at Towson University in Baltimore. "I wanted to do something for God instead of just sleeping (during spring break)," she said. (Photo by Tim Nicholas)

"I don't want the lollipop; I want the saying. I need some encouragement right now," said one student.

Attendance at the concerts was scant but as Bobby Waddail, Towson University's campus minister, said, "Getting them to focus for 10 seconds on who we are is valuable."

Elizabeth "Liz" Thurmond, BSU director at Hinds Community College, said her students "really became aware of the need to share their faith verbally — not taking opportunities for granted — and pray for courage to share with their lost friends who need to know what it means to walk in the Christian faith."

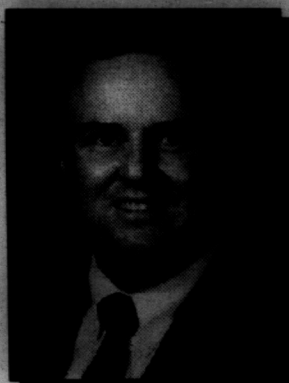
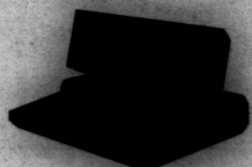
The 2000 spring break effort was a return trip to Towson University for some of the Hinds Community College students. Thurmond said relationships built during the year, primarily over the Internet, encouraged development of a praise team at Towson University.

Mississippi BSUs personally raised funds to pay their way to Maryland and Delaware for the spring break mission trip.

For information on BSU ministries in Mississippi, contact Weaver McCracken, Collegiate Ministry Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3302 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: wmccracken@mbcb.org.



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# What price salvation?

The world hasn't changed all that much since the time of Jesus. Christians today ask essentially the same question that has vexed believers for more than 2000 years: how do we make the Gospel appeal to a lost and dying world in a way that they will understand?

Different methods have worked in different eras. From the first century, when important evangelistic tools included a hardy voice and a well-made pair of sandals for traveling long distances on foot, to our modern day when communication satellites ring the earth and aircraft deliver us to any spot on the globe virtually overnight, Jesus' followers have struggled to accomplish the task laid out for them in Matt. 28:18-20.

Although the plan of salvation is as simple as ever, sharing it with a sinful world wasn't easy then and it isn't easy now. Then as now, however, Christians must work to reach the world with words and conduct that can be grasped by people who have never before heard the message.

What will they comprehend? What will make sense to them in terms of their culture, socioeconomic class, or family situation?

The United States is chock full of people who firmly believe in the concept of "different strokes for different folks," but there's one thing to which almost all Americans relate — money.

If Americans don't understand the value of most things, we certainly understand the price of everything. Everybody has his price, we like to say. One of the enduring (if overblown) images of our country is the sanguine mogul lighting his expensive cigar with a \$100 bill.

Whom do we most admire? The captains of industry and entertainment, of course, because they can make some real money in a year's time. We appreciate people who indulge in private jets, stretch limousines, grossly overpriced clothing, and rich food.

The top-rated television shows often spotlight spoiled rich people clutching and clawing each other over money. We seem to have a special attraction to characters who will do anything for money.

We cede respect and awe to people who have money, as if money is the sole determinant of character and integrity.

We don't even differentiate between people whose material wealth is merely written in big numbers across a sheet of ledger paper, and those whose wealth is cash on hand. Money is money, and money is the language Americans understand.

Which brings us to this fanciful thought — what if God charged a price for sacrificing his only begotten Son for our sins? Now there's a way to reach America!

If God charged for salvation we would finally believe, right down to the last man and woman, that it was really worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, we could own it. Then it would be worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, we could buy it and sell it and trade it amongst ourselves, just like fine jewelry and pork bellies. We could even peg its exchange value to the currencies of the world. Then it would be worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, we could stratify ourselves into social classes based on how much of it we were able to purchase and where we were able to display it like a work of art. Then it would be worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, we could open an exchange to bid it up and manipulate the availability at any given time in



order to acquire even more of it. Then it would be worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, countries would go to war over it and individuals would destroy each other to get more than their fair share of it. Then it would be worth something to us.

If God charged for salvation, we would figure out a way to make it into a monument to ourselves. Then it would be worth something to us.

On second thought, maybe that isn't such a good idea — because if God charged for salvation, we surely couldn't afford it.

Out of his love for us, that must be reason he decided to give it away.

## GUEST OPINION

### God's vineyard on the coast

By J. Clark Hensley

executive director emeritus

Miss. Baptist Christian Action Comm.



Gulfshore Assembly's season schedule has been announced through The Baptist Record and by mailouts to selected leadership in the churches. From the first program at Gulfshore Assembly directed by Chester Quarles, I have spent 52 weeks of my life at Gulfshore, mostly with family ministry programs but also serving with almost all departments in programs of Mississippi Baptist Convention Board work.

As Gulfshore director Frank Simmons welcomes each new group, he usually learns that about 50% of the participants are new and 50% are repeaters. I have observed the enthusiasm and often the spiritual growth of the repeaters.

Many remarkable leaders have discovered their calling at Gulfshore. Others have reported improvements in their church programs and people relationship skills as they have adopted ideas advocated or modeled. Hundreds have had burdens lifted or problems resolved from a fresh vision and new strength from the Lord.

Through already well qualified, leaders enlisted at Gulfshore have developed their talents and enriched their experience and many are in the group of repeaters. Levon Moore, Mattie

Ray, and Randy Oswalt are among those, and I was pleased at the recent announcements of the "fruits of their labor" without doubt each enhanced by their Gulfshore experience.

W. Levon Moore, with solid credentials in professional education and years of pastoral work, has often been invited to lead senior adult retreats and conferences.

His most recent book, *Like a Mighty River*, is an eloquent and excellent account of the history of the senior adult development and ministry among Baptists that have brought us to this pivotal stage in the movement.

When you know Mattie Ray, crafts seems to be a natural outflow of her creativity and spirit of ministry. Now we have available, Mattie's Ministry thru Crafts, 62 pages in beautiful

color prepared as conference material for her work sessions. The illustrations are so pretty and the instructions so simply stated for the more than 60 patterns even novices can find pleasure in them — but the big plus is in her instructions for their use in witnessing for the Lord.

At the first Family Life Conference held at the Southern Baptist Convention's Glorietta Assembly near Glorietta, N.M., my wife Margaret and I met two delightful couples from Vicksburg — the Oswalts and the Hasslemans. They returned home with enthusiasm for family ministry concerns and brought a large group to the next Gulfshore family program. They became repeaters on the Gulfshore family faculty.

Encouraged by physicians and physical therapists, Randy

Oswalt has prepared the Sta-Fit Exerciser, described as exercises for living a lasting life for young adults to seniors and a guide to enhance physical health and motivation for improving mental and spiritual fitness.

What does this have to do with Gulfshore? Randy will tell you that the Gulfshore experience was for many years enjoyed by the whole family as an annual retreat for spiritual recharge.

These three people — Levon Moore, Mattie Ray, and Randy Oswalt — are among the thousands of Gulfshore fruits and contributors to fruitfulness in others' lives in this vineyard of God on the coast. It is time to make that reservation now for the week or sessions of your special interest. Of course, my favorite is Family Week. If health permits, maybe we will make 53 weeks. I have welcomed a significant number there older than my 88 years.

The sin that causes the most regret is the sin of unexpressed gratitude. As you thank God for Gulfshore Assembly and pray for a fruitful summer 2000, perhaps you may feel it appropriate to write Frank Simmons a word of appreciation for the fruit you have gathered from God's vineyard on the coast.



# Islamic law debate at center of Nigeria riots

**ZARIA, Nigeria (BP)** — Missionary D'Anna Shotts almost called off traveling from Nigeria to Ghana to visit some old friends. The arrangements had been difficult to make, but she decided to go ahead with her getaway.

The day after she left Kaduna, Nigeria, where she has served as a librarian for the Baptist seminary, a riot broke out between Muslims and Christians, leaving a death toll in the hundreds. The next day, a mob of more than 3,000 people breached the block wall surrounding the seminary. The mob burned and destroyed all the buildings except for seven; Shotts' home was one of the few spared.

Eleven people — including two students and a retired maintenance man — were killed in the attack.

"It's incredible how quickly a life can turn upside-down," Shotts, who grew up in the eastern Illinois town of Martinsville, said in an e-mail to the Illinois Baptist newsjournal. "God has been very present with us through this entire crisis."

Closer to home, Shotts' mother, Marilyn, who still lives in Martinsville, near Terre Haute, Ind., has been inundated with phone calls about her daughter's safety. "I knew she was safe," Marilyn

Shotts said. "I had talked to her right before she left and knew she was OK in Ghana. We had probably heard about the trouble before she did."

Political and religious tensions have been mounting in Nigeria since last year's election of a Christian president with Baptist roots. A mostly Muslim region to the north, where military leaders had been the controlling force in the country, and a primarily Christian population in the south, divide Nigeria.

Several northern states had recently implemented Islamic law, known as shari'a, and Kaduna's legislature had agreed to set up a committee to follow suit, Shotts said.

"For about two weeks before the incident, large groups of Muslims had been having

four different areas of the town the next morning to march peacefully to the legislature to show their opposition. About 50,000 came to the rally, Shotts said. As they began to return home after the march, some Muslim youth began to hurl stones at the marchers, "and from there the situation deteriorated," setting off two days of riots.

"There was rioting and burning in many parts of the city," Shotts said. Fourteen Baptist churches in Kaduna had been destroyed, and many churches of other denominations had been burned. Many pastors, including two Baptist ministers, had been killed.

At the seminary, about 300 students and nearby residents tried to keep the mob of thousands at bay. Earlier in the day, the men had sent their families over the back wall to flee to an air force base more than a mile away. Dale and Brenda Gray, the only Southern Baptist missionaries on the campus at the time, "were trapped in my house on the seminary compound," Shotts recounted. The medical missionaries escaped by climbing the 8-foot back wall with the others. The situation remains tense, and Shotts urged Christians to pray for peace to return to Nigeria.

"This shari'a issue has been a tinderbox for months," Shotts said. "The Christians have insisted they will not tolerate Islamic law being imposed in the state, while the Muslims say either there will be shari'a or war."

Shotts returned to Kaduna on Feb. 28. The Grays and several others had moved her belongings to Zaria, a community about 45 minutes away where the Grays live.

Shotts' home had been looted several times, but little had been taken. She is staying with the Grays until repairs are finished on a nearby mission house.

"I've been almost too busy to grieve, but the pain is very great," Shotts said. "The violent death of loved ones is never easy to bear, and the loss of the facilities is very painful, too. Fifty-two years of love and hard work went into that campus, and in less than six hours it was all gone." Her dog, Belle, survived but has been in poor health; Shotts decided to put her to sleep. "So now I have no home, no students, and no dog, but God is still in control."

The toll has been great on new Christians in Kaduna as the violence spread to surrounding villages, Shotts said. In one area, all seven churches were burned; the Christians, "except those of the people group we work with," were either driven away or killed.

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**D'ANNA SHOTTS** — D'Anna Shotts, pictured in Kaduna, Nigeria, last May, was in Ghana when a religious riot broke out between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria. The seminary where she works was almost completely destroyed. (BP photo by Marilyn Shotts)

peaceful rallies each day near the legislature to show their support. Christians, however, had only been sending small groups of influential leaders to meet with government officials," Shotts said. "The Muslims were saying that the Christians didn't care whether there was shari'a because they were not coming out in numbers to protest."

As a result, Christians made announcements throughout their churches on the Sunday before the riots to assemble in

## Lifeway names e-business head

**NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)**—Tim Vineyard, vice president of a firm specializing in computer, networking, and Internet services, has been named to direct the new E-Business Group at LifeWay Christian Resources of the Southern Baptist Convention in Nashville.

Vineyard, 43, will assume his new responsibility April 1. A native of Tennessee, he has been vice president of MCS, Inc., of Knoxville, Tenn., since 1981. Earlier, he was president of VCS, Inc., an electronic equipment manufacturing firm. He also held various management positions with Ultra Electronics, Inc.

As director of the E-Business Group, he will be responsible for developing LifeWay's Internet presence "and for initiating alliances with other like-minded organizations for future growth," said Ted Warren, LifeWay's executive vice president and chief operating officer.

"Tim will work with our business units to maximize the use of e-business. We also will expect this group to enable LifeWay to become a major Christian presence on the Web," Warren said.

## Looking back

### 10 years ago

Charles Fuller, chairman of the SBC Peace Committee, endorses a plan voiced by First Church, Houston (Texas), pastor John Bisagno for a new coalition of Baptists "committed to a perfect, infallible Bible." Fuller, in his church newsletter, says the proposal has "refreshing potential."

### 20 years ago

First Church, Pascagoula, leads the state in Baptist Doctrine Study awards, according to the Church Training Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. First Church, Hattiesburg, and West Heights Church, Pontotoc, tie for second place.

### 50 years ago

The 71st annual meeting of the Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) of Mississippi draws a record of 1,954 people. Meeting at Calvary Church, Jackson, under the theme "Christ for the World," the WMU hears reports of 147 new WMU organizations begun in state last year.



# BSU center underway at Decatur's ECCC

DECATUR, Miss. (Special) — People who drive down Broad Street in Decatur might have noticed the large structure being built where the East Central Community College (ECCC) Baptist Student Union (BSU) used to be. For those who might not know, that new building is a larger and improved BSU Center.

When BSU Director Scott Vaughn arrived on the scene in 1995, the 65-plus-year-old house in which the group met was too small for the large number of students involved in BSU.

"With approximately 150 students involved regularly in BSU and some 500 involved in some type of BSU function each year, there was simply not enough space for everyone," said Vaughn, "and with the growing college enrollment, there is more student involvement each year."

The 19-member BSU advisory board, which consists of citizens from the five-county district, met with Vaughn three years ago to discuss plans for a new BSU center. "At the time, plans were made to begin putting money aside for a new building. Area churches were asked to donate and since that time, we have been seriously seeking donations. One anonymous donor gave a significant contribution to really 'get the ball rolling,'" said Vaughn.

"Approximately \$100,000 of the \$220,000 needed has been raised," Vaughn said. "The foundation and the plumbing work were contracted out

and the rest of the work has been done by men and women in the area who volunteered their services. When the money runs out we will have to stop construction until we raise more funds."

The new 5200-square-foot building will consist of a large meeting room, two offices, a large commercial-type kitchen, a conference room, a work room, a storage room, and a meeting room. The new BSU center will seat approximately 200 people and can accommodate up to 350 people.

Future plans also include a small parking area on the back side of the property.

For those who wonder what BSU is and what this building will be used for, Vaughn explained. "The East Central BSU is a campus ministry that holds worship services, Bible studies, and mission trips.

"We also have 'Lunch Encounter' every Wednesday, where students can receive a free lunch and hear a short devotion.

"In addition, we have ministry teams that include drama and music in their programs and we hold revival services each year in cooperation with the ECCC Fellowship of Christian Athletes."

Vaughn also describes BSU as "a little taste of heaven on campus. Baptist Student Union is not just for Southern Baptists, but it's for anyone who wishes to come.

"It doesn't matter about race, class, economic status, or denomination."

The completion date for the new center is May 1, if funds are secured.

For more information on the project, contact Vaughn at P.O. Box 39, Decatur, MS 39327. Telephone: (601) 635-2481.



MAKING PLANS — East Central Community College Baptist Student Union (BSU) director Scott Vaughn (left) looks over plans with volunteer carpenter Bobby Kirby (center) of Forest and volunteer contractor Pete Shepherd of Harpersville for the new BSU building under construction on the Decatur campus. (BR Special Photo)

## MSU BSU sends teams to Honduras, Fla., Texas

STARKVILLE, Miss. (Special) — Four mission teams from the Mississippi State University (MSU) Baptist Student Union (BSU) helped bring people closer to God during spring break.

Fifteen students and staff made up the Honduras team that worked at Los Pinares Academy in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, during its spiritual emphasis week.

"We were in charge of chapel services each day and worship for a youth retreat, but much of our time was spent playing with the elementary children and forming relationships with the youth," said Tara Thrasher, a Kosciusko sophomore.

"Even though we couldn't take warm showers, couldn't drink their water or speak much Spanish, our week in Honduras was incredible because we were able to be a part of building God's kingdom with the young people of Honduras," said Ben Skipper, a BSU intern from Shuqualak.

Another team went to Panama City, Fla., to take part in BeachReach 2000.

Of 90 students serving through BeachReach2000, a

total of 18 of them were from MSU's BSU.

"BeachReach is a mission opportunity for students all over the nation to come together as one and witness to the spring breakers. We gave free van rides at night, served free pancakes, and did street ministry," said Tupelo senior Kerri Holley.

"Many people came to know Christ. Many more were able to see Christ for the first time, and some rediscovered what Christ

is all about," said Holley.

Mississippi State's BSU sent two groups to Texas. One group went to Arlington, while another group went to San Antonio.

The Arlington group worked with Mission Arlington, which is a ministry started 14 years ago by missionaries Tilly and Bob Bergan. It began as a clothing and food pantry and has grown to include such services as sports, a furniture warehouse, and dental care.

The team of seven led Bible studies, played with children, and did service jobs, such as cleaning apartments.

"It's an experience every Christian should go through. It's a total service and total humbleness," said Kresta Cain, a senior from Belmont.

"Through the service and attention we gave the children, they learned that Jesus loves them and that other people do, too," said Cain.

Diana Bridges, BSU international coordinator, took a group of 12 International students and five Americans to San Antonio.

"We wanted to provide a service to internationals for them to see another part of the country, and while doing that, we got to know them and talk about matters of faith. The internationals had a number of opportunities to learn about Christianity because they were staying in Christian homes. Some of the students had not been to church before," she said.

The BSU takes part in mission projects every spring break with the support of churches and individuals.



Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union mission team to Florida

## Messenger cards available for 2000 SBC

Messenger cards for the 2000 annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) June 13-14 in Orlando are now available through the executive director's office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB). Messengers to the annual meetings are those people chosen by their respective churches to represent the church in matters that come before the SBC. Messenger cards for the 2000 SBC annual meeting will be mailed only to churches that request the cards. To request messenger cards or for more information, contact the MBCB executive director's office at (601) 292-3201 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651. E-mail: bboxes@mbcb.org. For more information on serving as a messenger, contact your pastor.



# Collins: God gave his life 'better direction'

SALINA, Okla. (BP) — YoYo Collins had big plans when he graduated from college in December 1976. Although he first worked as a janitor and substitute teacher in Tulsa, he planned to do one of two things by June 1, 1977.

"Either I was going to go back home to Salina [in Oklahoma] and work with my dad on improving my pitching skills so I could try out for the Tulsa Oilers AAA baseball team, or I was going to pack up everything and move to Libby, Montana," said Collins, who noted he fell in love with the mountains when he had crossed the Rocky Mountains as a 17-year-old on his way to Idaho.

A physical education major, Collins said he was in the best physical condition of his life. A baseball pitcher at Northeastern Oklahoma State University in Tahlequah, he eventually hoped to coach baseball or basketball at the college level.

Those dreams turned into a nightmare on May 14, 1977. Collins and some friends were on a camping trip on the Illinois River, when Collins decided to cool off in the water.

"I knew the water was shallow, so I planned to barely skim the top of the water in a shallow dive, then get out, dry off, and join the others for some music," Collins remembered.

When he tried to swim to the top of the water, he couldn't move anything. Rescued by friends and taken to a hospital, Collins was told he had a fracture of the fifth cervical vertebra and a dislocation at the fifth and sixth vertebrae — and a completely severed spinal cord.

"He will be doing little more, if any, than he's doing right now," a doctor told his parents.

For the first four months after the accident, Collins said he didn't believe the doctors who said he would never get out of the wheelchair.

Church wasn't a big part of his life when the accident occurred. "I became a Christian when I was 9," he said, "but I



QUADRIPLAGIC'S MINISTRY — Evangelist YoYo Collins and his wife, Sandi, 20 years later into their joint evangelistic ministry, schedule 200 concerts, schools, and conventions each year in which YoYo sings and shares his life story. (BP photo by Dana Williamson)

quit attending church by age 15 or so."

Collins said his life began to turn around when a wrestling coach gave him his Bible and a book, "The Power of the Subconscious Mind."

Before I read the book, my mind was of the opinion everything I accomplished had nothing to do with God," Collins said. "That book helped me understand everything is from God, whether I can see it or

acknowledge it. God was part of my life in spirit and truth whether I liked it or not."

About that time, a local school-teacher named Sandi was becoming more important in his life. "YoYo was the first living tragedy Salina ever had," Sandi recounted. "The whole town was pulling for him."

As the two became closer, YoYo asked Sandi for a date. One day, Sandi said, it dawned on her that she had fallen in love with YoYo.

Then one night on a dinner date, YoYo told Sandi he had grown to love her and asked her to be his wife. The two were married on Oct. 14, 1980.

Several months before their wedding, Sandi approached YoYo about singing and sharing his experience in church. Now, 20 years later, YoYo sings and shares his story in 200 concerts, schools, and conventions each year.

Those 20 years of ministry, as well as the story of YoYo's accident and YoYo's and Sandi's romance have been put into a book written by the couple and titled, "Good as Grape Juice." The title comes from YoYo's response when people ask him how he is.

"Most evangelists do revivals, which means they have to set aside a week," YoYo explained. "We do concerts, schools, and conventions, which means we can take on more commitments."

The success of his ministry, YoYo said, lies in Sandi's ability to create a schedule. "When we first started the ministry, I called pastors, told them about YoYo and asked if they would allow him to sing and share in their churches," Sandi said. "Opportunities multiplied as we met more and more pastors."

One of the most important parts of their ministry is time spent with pastors and their wives, the Collinses said.

"We love to fellowship with them, listen to them if they want to share any problems or concerns, pray with them, or just be there for them," Sandi said.

Collins can be reached at (918) 434-5949.

## IN APPRECIATION OF ANNIE

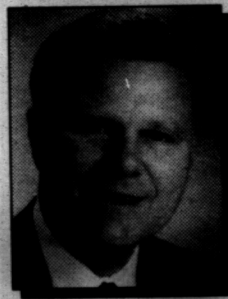
Annie has made a difference in our world!

In fact, there have been many Annie's who have left their mark on society. I'm sure there are more than I can remember. Those that come to mind are Annie Oakley and her famous gun, and Little Orphan Annie, a star in many different venues. Of course everyone knows "Annie Freeze" and the great contribution she made to car care. Also, all of us are aware of the great benefits provided to us by "Annie Perspirant" and "Annie Acid," to say nothing of the blessings of their cousin, "Annie Histamine."

All of this leads me to say a word about the greatest of all the Annie's. She happens to be a Baptist "Annie" and she becomes prominent in our church life about this time each year.

She is, of course, Annie Armstrong.

Annie Armstrong was born July 11, 1850. She never knew her father, since he died when she was only a year and a half



## Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer  
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

old. Growing up in Baltimore, Md., her heart was focused on church and the needs of the people around her. Her vision grew to reach all the way across our land and around the world.

Annie lived and died with an unwavering passion for souls — ever working, praying, and desiring that her great land, America, would come to know Jesus.

Annie Armstrong was saved at age 20, and soon after making her profession of faith she became interested and involved in missions — missions at home and missions around the world.

She helped organize the Baltimore Auxiliary of Woman's

Missionary Union (WMU) Society. The Baltimore Society was part of a group headquartered in New York that had become the first to send out single women missionaries. In 1873, one of those young, single missionaries appointed to China was Charlotte Digges Moon, namesake of Southern Baptists' annual Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for International Missions.

While Annie Armstrong's mission vision encompassed the globe, her watchword became, "Our land for Christ." She was, throughout her entire life, unrelenting in her efforts to send and support missionaries and to find resources to channel

into the mission efforts in order to reach all people everywhere with the love of Jesus.

She called on Baptists across the land to join with her for one specific week of prayer and sacrificial giving to reach our nation. Since the beginning of that offering, almost \$750,000,000 has gone directly into the mission efforts to reach America for Christ.

Annie Armstrong became the first recording secretary of the WMU in 1888. While she lived for 88 years and died on December 29, 1938, her spirit continues to affect, bless, and inspire Southern Baptist mission causes.

This year, the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for North American Missions national goal is \$47,000,000 — and the cause continues to be "God-sized," and "God-driven."

Why so large a goal? It is estimated that over 200 million people in America do not know Jesus as Lord and Savior.

May the Lord bless you as your vision increases and your gifts are given to his glory.

## Nicaragua relief nets 600 professions

BRENTWOOD, Tenn. (BP) — A six-month evaluation of a five-state Baptist convention response to needs in Nicaragua stemming from Hurricane Mitch has resulted in more than 235 houses being built, five new churches, and 600-plus recorded professions of faith, reported Tim Bearden, leader of the Tennessee Baptist Convention's missions awareness and involvement group.

"All of these statistics are important because people are out of the rain, people have come to know Jesus Christ, and houses of worship have been left behind for people to be disciplined," said Bearden, who traveled Feb. 14-16 to Nicaragua to evaluate the disaster-recovery partnership with leaders from the Arkansas Baptist Convention, Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, Missouri Baptist Convention, and the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Mississippi Baptists are currently in a partnership with the Baptist Convention of Maryland/Delaware, and also in a hurricane relief partnership with Baptists in nearby Honduras.

The evaluation revealed more than 180 volunteers have responded to needs in Nicaragua. Besides numerous construction teams, one medical team from Central Church, Johnson City, Tenn., treated 770 patients.

Other results of the partnership effort include the distribution of 1,000 Bibles and more than 20 showings of the "Jesus" film.

From the volunteers' response to Nicaraguans' needs, 10 people have made commitments to career or long-term missions, Bearden said.



## NAMES IN THE NEWS



**Calvary Church, Smithdale**, held deacon ordination services on Feb. 20. Pictured (from left) are David Luce, pastor; Brad Stokes; Lane Cothorn; Noel Wroten; and David Wicker.

**Leaf River Church, Smith County**, ordained Rudy Jackson on Feb. 20. Jackson is outreach leader at Leaf River Church and he also has a weekly jail ministry at the Smith County jail. Dan Perry is pastor.

**Sharon Knight** of West Laurel Church, Laurel, has recently received a Sunday School 32-year perfect attendance bar. Her two daughters, Brynn, age 19, just received her 19th year perfect attendance bar and her other daughter, Brooke, age 14, received her 14th year perfect attendance bar. Cary F. Worthington is pastor.



**Trinity Church, Petal**, held an ordination of deacons for Byron Sigrest and Steven Johnson on Feb. 27. Pictured (from left) are Sigrest, Johnson, and David Melton, pastor.

## BAPTIST COLLEGE NEWS

**Greg Spencer**, a senior at Mississippi College from Rolling Fork, was recently awarded a scholarship by the Board of Ministerial Education, an agency of the Mississippi Baptist Convention. Spencer, who will graduate in May, plans to attend Beeson Divinity School, Birmingham, Ala., for graduate work. Pictured (from left) are Spencer and Les Hughes, chair of the Department of Christian Studies and Philosophy.

The Mississippi College department of art will present the works of the senior art majors in an exhibit in Samuel

Marshall Gore Art Gallery in Aven Hall. The exhibit started on March 22 and will go through April 14. Gallery hours are 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m., Monday through Friday. The exhibit will feature the work of the seniors in interior design, graphic design, art education, and general art.

**Mississippi College Players** will present Neil Simon's "God's Favorite," a comic retelling of the Biblical Job story, on April 6-8, 10, and 11 at 7 p.m. nightly and on April 9 for a 2 p.m. Sunday matinee in Aven Little Theater. For more information or ticket reservations, call (601) 925-3224.

Gala," featuring the MC Chamber Choir and the Mississippi Girl's Choir. The performance will be April 3 in Provine Chapel at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the office of public relations at (601) 925-3239.

The William Carey College speech and debate team (Forensics) has produced a national championship debate team while successfully defending its third place overall national ranking. Ron Durbin and Jason Ruiz were named National Parliamentary Debate Champions at the Pi Kappa Delta National

Tournament which was recently held in St. Louis, Mo. The Carey team also placed fourth in individual events sweepstakes and fifth in debate sweepstakes. For more information about the forensics program, contact Darren Van Michael at 1-800-962-5991, ext 207; or (601) 582-6207.

The Office of Continuing Education at Mississippi College is offering a Microsoft Excel course. Classes are scheduled to be held each Monday night from 6-8 p.m., April 6-27. The cost of the course is \$125. For additional information, call (601) 925-3301.



Spencer and Hughes

**Spring trimester enrollment** at William Carey College is the largest in the history of the college. Registrar Cathy Van Devender released final spring enrollment number of 2214 students. The previous high was in 1993 when 2195 students were enrolled. The spring number represents a 12.5% increase over spring 1999.

Mississippi College (MC) department of music will present "A Spring Choral

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**ASSOCIATE PASTOR:** Individual must possess desire/ability for assisting the church in creating new ministry models and a willingness to have responsibilities directed by developing as well as existing needs. Send resume to Associate Pastor Search Committee, Southwest Baptist Church, 6401 Scanlan, St. Louis, MO 63139.

**USED CHURCH PEWS.** Contact Bethel Baptist Church, 601-587-4661.

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### MS POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**INTERIM PART-TIME YOUTH MINISTER** needed at the First Baptist Church of Lyman, Gulfport, MS. Please send resume to FBC Lyman, 14321 Old Highway 49, Gulfport, MS 39503, or call 228-832-2159.

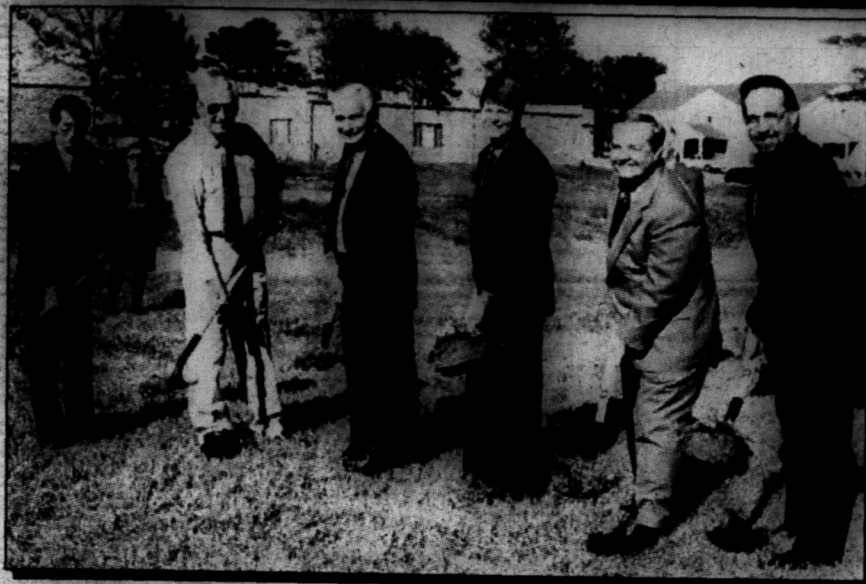
**SOCIETY HILL BAPTIST CHURCH** seeks bi-vocational or student youth minister. Send resume to: Jim Langston, Rt 1 Box 69B, Oakvale, MS 39656, call 601-792-8119 or fax 601-792-4709.

**PART-TIME MINISTER OF MUSIC.** Send resume to: Music Search Committee, c/o Eastwood Baptist Church, P.O. Box 466, Indianola, MS 38751. Call 601-887-4404.

**PIANIST AND/OR ORGANIST NEEDED** for growing church in Reservoir area. Call 601-924-0569 or 829-1004 for more information.



## JUST FOR THE RECORD



**Rankin Association** had ground breaking for its new associational facility on March 12. The 5,000 square foot office building will be located at 202 Park Place Drive in Pearl. Pictured (from left) are Larry Sones, architect; J. C. Renfro, retired director of missions; J. T. Laird, chairman, properties committee; Leroy Brewer, moderator; Allen Stephens, director of missions; and Bob Dominy, pastor, Park Place Church.

**Mississippi Association, Liberty**, will hold its spring association meeting at Hebron Church, 7 p.m., on April 10. The speaker will be David Michel. Alton Foster is director of missions.

**The Fishers of Men's National Tournament Trail**, Mississippi Division, will be held April 1 on Ross Barnett Reservoir. This Christian based organization is in its second year in Mississippi and

is supported by the Mississippi Baptist Convention through its Men's Ministry and Evangelism Departments. A pre-tournament meeting, which includes a free meal and the sharing of a gospel message, will be held at Ridgecrest Church, Madison, on Friday evening. The agenda will include a seminar by Jackson professional fisherman Jeff Magee and song by his wife Kathy. Phil Walker, pastor of Ridgecrest Church, will be the guest speaker. Interested fishermen desiring information on cost and other upcoming events in Mississippi should contact Jim Phillips in Greenwood at (662) 453-7818 or (662) 392-3474.

**Tim Frith and Gospel Echoes of Pearl** will present a concert at Wesson Church, Wesson, April 2 at 6 p.m. For more information, call (601) 939-6444.

**Lena Church, Lena**, held ground breaking for a new addition to its building. The addition will include a fellowship hall (downstairs) and classrooms (upstairs). The building committee (pictured from left) are Tom Stevens, pastor; Sarah Langford; Sherry Sherman; Jeff Rhinewalt; Larry Wood Sr.; Wayne Oxner; and Ed Mercher, chairman.



Ground breaking at Lena Church, Lena

## REVIVAL DATES

**First, Marion:** April 2-5; Jerry Mixon, director, Stewardship Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, evangelist; Randy Cuchens, Newton, music; David L. Sellers, pastor.

**Newhebron, (Lawrence):** April 2-7; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; William (Willie) Wright, McComb, evangelist; Tom Larrimore, Jackson, music; David Wilkinson, pastor.

**Freedom, Laurel:** April 9-12; 7 p.m. nightly; Mark Byrd, Laurel, evangelist; Dennis Brown, Niceville, Fla., music; Robby Johnson, pastor.

**Liberty Hill, Pope:** April 2-5; 11 a.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. each evening; Vafon Douglas, vocational evangelist, Columbia, speaker; Danny Perkins, Batesville, music.

**West Laurel, Laurel:** April 9-12; Sunday, 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon and 7 p.m.; Richard Belcher, evangelist; Floyd Grice, music; Cary F. Worthington, pastor.

**First, Houlika:** April 2-5; Bible study high attendance at 9:45 a.m., worship at 10:50 a.m., covered dish dinner at noon, and 6 p.m. service; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Jimmy McClendon, speaker; Melinda Kopp, music; David Blackwell, pastor.

**Spring Creek, Philadelphia:** April 9-13; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; James Lewis, Southaven, evangelist; Wayne King, pastor.

**Springfield, Carthage:** April 9-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. nightly; Wayne Edwards, evangelist; Jessie Bennett, music.

**Wheeler Grove, Corinth:** April 2-5; Sunday, 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Danny Lanier, Meridian, evangelist; Kara Blackard, pastor.

**Glendale, Glen:** April 2-5; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Randy Latch, Jackson, Tenn., evangelist; James Melton, pastor.

**Robinhood, Brandon:** April 2-5; services, 7 p.m.; Harold Bryson, Pearl, evangelist; Barry Lyall, Clinton, music; Don G. Nerren, pastor.

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3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in his name (John 1:12).

If you make a decision for Jesus Christ today, contact a local Baptist church for spiritual guidance.



# Analysis: Does Ventura have message for Christians?

By Erich Bridges  
SBC International Mission Board

## Pastor's pro-life prayer criticized

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (BP) — When Daryl Orman was invited to deliver the March 9 invocation for the Florida House of Representatives, he had no idea the invitation would put him in the middle of a statewide controversy — but that's exactly what happened when Orman, pastor of First Church, Stuart, asked Jesus to instill in the lawmakers "the desire to protect the unborn."

Not only did Orman's prayer infuriate pro-abortion rights lawmakers, it also offended several Jewish lawmakers.

"It was not only proselytizing, but with the closing in the name of Jesus Christ, it was offensive to those of the Jewish faith," said Rep. Sally Heyman, a Democrat from Miami Beach. "This was to virtually a captive audience, and this was not the right place to go on about babies being carried by their mothers."

The concern centered on a portion of Orman's extemporaneous prayer that mentioned the protection of unborn children. "We ask you, Lord, if you would, instill in their hearts the desire to protect the unborn, those babies being carried by women all over the state of Florida," he prayed.

He closed the invocation in the "precious name of the Lord, Jesus Christ." That particular line upset the 11 Jewish members of the House.

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Minnesota Gov. Jesse "The Body" Ventura, former professional wrestling star, told Playboy magazine last year that organized religion is a "sham" and a "crutch for weak-minded people."

Well, you can't accuse Ventura of being a typical politician. He may spend more time giving interviews than governing, but he speaks his mind. As for his knowledge of "shams" that attract "weak-minded people," late-night comedian Jay Leno had a snappy comeback: "Gee, isn't it good that professional wrestling isn't like that?"

Let's resist, however, the urge to body-slam "The Body" long enough to examine ourselves. It's a given that America's cultural and media elites generally loathe Bible-believing Christians, but why do so many other folks outside the church hold us in contempt?

True, Jesus said the world would hate his children as it hated him — but he also told us to love the world as his Father does. Does the world sense God's love in you, or your own indifference? Your right doctrine means nothing to the world — except as an object of ridicule — unless it senses his love.

Too often, American churches resemble that floating pleasure palace reportedly being built off the coast of Honduras, one of the hemisphere's poorest nations. Builders say it will be the biggest boat in history —

more than 4,300 feet long and 750 feet wide — with parks, sports centers, theaters, luxury condos. It will carry up to 115,000 wealthy residents on a

perpetual (and tax-free) search for sun and fun. "An ideal place to live," says the promoter. "Friendly, safe, and secure."

Its estimated construction cost, \$8.5 billion, is twice the size of the entire annual gross domestic product of Honduras. Minimum-wage workers there, who earn an average of \$2.50 a day, need not apply for a cruise.

"I think the market is not really intended for Hondurans," a spokesman for the mega-boat enterprise admitted in response to a reporter's question. No kidding. This gives new meaning to the term "gated community."

What is the "market" for your church? Do you throw out lifelines to the poor and the lost, drowning in an ocean of darkness? Or do you sail on in search of ever-sunnier worship services, retreats, and special events — heedless of those left behind?

They're out there, bobbing around in the cold shadows,

struggling to keep their heads above the waves of life. And they're watching you — at least the ones who even notice your existence. Some 24 million

Americans reject any religious affiliation; tens of millions more are nominal church members, cult followers or embrace a vague "spirituality" that gives and demands nothing.

Guilt or sense of duty will never consistently motivate us to reach over the sides of our bright, comfortable boats

into the darkness. Only the love of Christ will. If it's missing, if we just sit on our padded deck chairs and soak up the rays, what will the drowning think of us — and our faith — as they go down for the third time? The word "sham" comes to mind.

"The cry of the people who don't yet know [that] God has provided a Savior is [the same as] that of the disciples on the storm-tossed sea, 'Carest thou not that we perish?'" observes Jerry Rankin, president of the Southern Baptist International Mission Board.

Jesus cares. His love starts at home — inside the boats of family and church — then

moves in concentric circles to our neighbors, cities, nation — and all the nations. It's not easy. It's not convenient. But it's real.

During last year's dark, week-long Carnival street party in Salvador, Brazil, a disheveled woman with a beer in one hand and cigarette in the other hurled abuse at Christian volunteers preaching the Gospel.

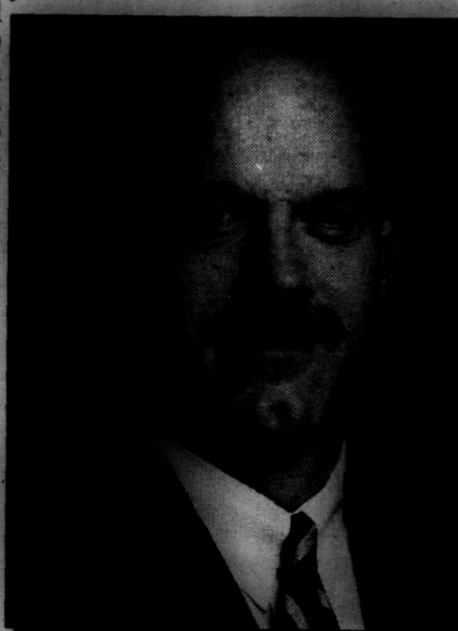
"She must have screamed insults and curse words down on us for 15 minutes," relates Southern Baptist missionary Karen Gray.

The volunteers prayed for the woman, laying hands on her building. The landlord warned them that she often had screaming fits and seemed to be under demonic influence. Yet after their prayers, she watched them from her balcony in total silence for the rest of that night — and the next.

"The Lord impressed upon me the need to physically touch her," Gray says. "On Sunday night she came down to the street, well-groomed, and I introduced myself and shook her hand. She grunted her name at me: 'Marcia.' Later I again touched her arm and prayed the love of Christ would flow through me."

"On the last night, I gave her my Bible and explained that we wanted nothing from her, but only hoped she would see Jesus in us. For a long time she said nothing. Finally she called me by name and thanked me for the Bible. She got up off her stool, kissed me on both cheeks, and gave me a big smile."

Even Jesse Ventura would understand that.



Ventura

## New Internet site links the lost with Christians

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Looking for a free Internet site to tell the world about a people group? Need information to

help you pray for the world's lost billions?

Try PeopleTeams.org on the World Wide Web.

The site, established to help Christians learn about different people groups and their need for the Gospel, was launched in October 1999 by a Christian group that remains anonymous in order to foster a large sense of teamwork among Christians.

Missionary team leaders and strategy coordinators can promote a people group by visiting [www.peopleteams.org](http://www.peopleteams.org) and clicking on "Request a Free Website."

PeopleTeams.org will host the sites or provide links to existing sites in an advertisement-free environment so "the good news of Jesus Christ spreads to every nation, tribe

and tongue."

The site also helps by providing a place where interested Christians can glean information about a people group or culture and pray according to its particular needs.

PeopleTeams.org currently hosts the websites of several International Mission Board missionaries, including David and Sanan Brazzeal of Canada

and Shawn and Mary Risinger of Austria.

Links to other board missionaries' websites, like the one for Ken and Hazel Sorrell of Guatemala, also are included.

The PeopleTeams site, which had received more than 80,000 hits through February, hosts or links 175 sites about people groups, population segments and cities.

## STAFF CHANGES

Salem Church, Tylertown, has recently called **Bradley White** as minister of music/worship pastor. His previous place of service was 38th Avenue in Hattiesburg. White received his education at William Carey College and is a student at New Orleans Seminary. Bradley Rushing is pastor of Salem Church.



White

Terry Road Church, Jackson, has called **Joe Wiggins** as pastor. A native of Columbia, Wiggins is a graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi and Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary. Wiggins previously served as pastor of Yockanookany Church in Kosciusko.



Wiggins

Glade Church, Laurel, has called **Stephen Bryant** as associate pastor and minister of students effective April 2. Bryant received his education at William Carey College. His previous place of service was Salem Heights Church, Laurel.

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## TV TRASH

Editor:

I read with interest The Baptist Record editorial (March 16) concerning the television show entitled "God, the Devil, and Bob," and I totally agree with the writer. It would be so nice to turn on my television once in a while and not see so much bad stuff. It seems that nearly every time I turn on my TV, I have to turn it off because I can't find anything decent to watch. I did wish to comment on one thing in particular. It seems ironic to me that the stations that refused to air the show "God, the Devil, and Bob" are the same stations that continue to air shows like "Will and Grace," and "Veronica's Closet," which promote homosexuality, bad adult language, and promiscuity. I would like, one day, to see these same stations airing more "Focus on the Family" documentaries (such as the ones they have been showing instead of "God, the Devil, and Bob"), rather than the trash they currently show.

Michael Williams  
Clinton

## RESPONSIBLE STEWARDS

Editor:

I write to exclaim "What a great and awesome God we have." This great God that we have calls upon poor old widows to give sacrificially while he expects us to pay administrators in our national convention \$250,000 dollars a year! This

great God has people of low income and fixed incomes that he has given the grace to give to his cause above their ability while at times lacking something they need, while he cannot give this same grace to men qualified to be administrators in our convention who can give of their time and talents for, say, \$75,000 to 100,000 a year.

The reason for this ironic satire is a call I received from our state convention wanting to have a one-day stewardship revival. I questioned him about his focus of this revival, then explained my reason. I am sorry, but until our leaders lead by example and not by greed I cannot in good conscience ask the widow, elderly, and the low income to dig into their pockets simply to pay outlandish salaries.

Perhaps the church needs to think about being responsible stewards of our monies. I will continue to fully support the established offering, but will advise the church where I pastor to keep its money and use it responsibly in Jerusalem.

Larry Smith  
Sardis

## DIRECTOR SEARCH BEGINS

Editor:

Cloyd Sullins, executive director-treasurer of the Alaska Baptist Convention, has announced his upcoming retirement. We are beginning the process to find God's man to lead our convention in the coming years. We ask for your prayers, and for resumes of individuals that you feel led to

recommend. Resumes should be sent to me at First Baptist Church, 1100 West Tenth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501-3313

Marvin Owen  
Anchorage, AK

## TROUBLED BY REMARKS

Editor:

I have been troubled by the remarks I have read in the Record concerning Emmaus retreats. The main objection seems to be that it results in reactions which might be interpreted as "charismatic."

I am a Baptist and a charismatic and this bothers me. In the first place it shows a woeful ignorance of both the word's definition and the movement itself. The word "charismatic" applied to a Christian or a church means simply that he or it believes in the present day efficacy of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as described in I Cor. 12.

When conservative Christians say "charismatic" they are usually referring to the individual's church's action to seeing or feeling these gifts in action. If shouting, jumping, or falling down annoys, then fault the individual or church. To be sure such reactions can become troublesome because they can lure attention away from the working of the Spirit.

Before we fault such churches or people too much, let's think awhile about how often the gifts of tongues, spontaneous healings, and uncommon miracles are evidenced in non-charismatic churches. Who

can say what our various reactions would be if an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared at a church service?

Anne Long  
Saucier

## GOD IS SO GOOD

Editor:

It was just one year ago, Saturday, April 3, 1999, that at the point of death I was taken to the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center suffering from necrotizing fasciitis (the flesh eating bacteria). God used a wonderful medical team and thousands of prayer warriors to perform a miracle, returning me to my life and ministry.

God has been so good. The hospital stay, which was projected to be six months to a year, only lasted seven weeks. For several months, I could not sing and had difficulty swallowing, but God continues to heal. I was able to begin my ministry as minister of music of Paul Truitt Memorial Church again on August 16.

About the same time I resumed my work with Wesley College and the church music department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

I believe that God is leading me to join with those who took care of me and prayed for me during the great journey we have all been making together. Several friends, colleagues, and members of the medical team will join me in singing, playing, and sharing during a celebration service at 6:30 p.m. on April 1, at Paul Truitt Memorial Church in Pearl. Please join me as I seek to express my great gratitude to you and our God.

If you cannot be present, please pray for God's will to be done as we celebrate his great love and power.

Susan M. Clark  
Jackson

## CHURCH BELLS COMFORT

Editor:

I moved to Bruce in 1996. I was reared in the Banner Community and am a member of the Baptist church there. However, I attend the Rocky Branch Church near Bruce.

I have a question that no one seems to be able to answer. It is a question that I feel is a lost tradition and a very important one: What happened to the church bells?

We no longer have prayer in school, and cannot post the Ten Commandments. I wonder what's next.

I lived in Europe for 12 years and there is nothing so comfortable and a feeling of contentment as hearing the numerous church bells, especially at Christmas.

It makes one truly realize the true meaning of the church and its teachings.

Robert W. Gordon  
Bruce



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Unsigned letters will not be printed. No multi-copy or form letters will be used.

Each correspondent must include an address and telephone number for verification. In special instances, name may be withheld at writer's request and editor's discretion.

Please include the name of cooperating Mississippi Baptist church where correspondent is a member. (Mississippi Baptists' letters will receive priority when space is limited.)

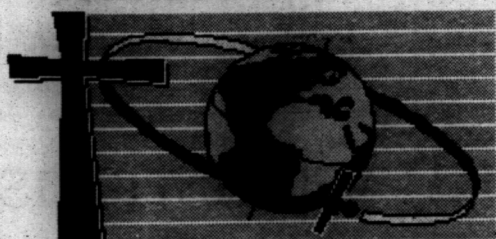
Letters must be limited to 250 words. All correspondence is subject to editing.

Correspondents should refrain from personal attacks. The opinions expressed in letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

No more than one letter from any individual will be printed during a three-month period.

When in the judgement of the editor a given issue has received sufficient attention, correspondence dealing with it will no longer be published and a notice will be printed to that effect.

## WITNESSING



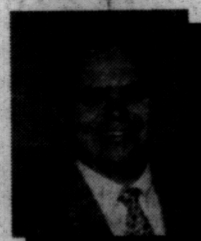
## THROUGH MEDIA

### AWARDS BANQUET

FRIDAY MAY 5  
6:00-9:00 P.M.



J.J. Jasper  
Awards Banquet  
Speaker



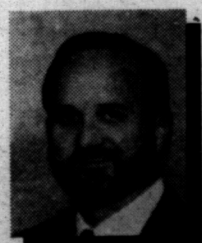
Wes Pegues  
Internet: Spinning a  
Spiritual Web



Stan Grubb  
How Shall They Hear



Tony Brooks  
Sound Advice



Don Warren

Creative  
Production &  
How Did They  
Do That?



Chip Turner  
Getting Started  
in Media



Don Moore  
"Nuts and Bolts"  
of Camera  
Operation

## RIDGECREST BAPTIST CHURCH

MADISON, MISSISSIPPI

MAY 5-6, 2000

### WORKSHOPS

SATURDAY MAY 6  
8:00 A.M. - 3:15 P.M.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS APRIL 25, 2000

Cost of \$25 per person is for Fri. & Sat. Includes all meals and conference materials. Advance registration must be made. Make check payable to MBCB and mail to:

Farrell Blankenship, WMT,  
PO Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530.



# Amazed missionaries watch God at work

MALINDI, Kenya (BP) — The 14-year-old boy spotted a group of strangers walking

down the country path. His curiosity was piqued when they stopped to talk to a man. He hid behind a mud-packed home and listened as the visitors spoke of God's love.

As Kenyan pastor Samuel Katana explained that sin separated man from God, the teenager hung his head in shame. When Jesus' sacrifice on the cross entered the picture, he stepped from his hiding place and quietly took a seat next to the pastor.

"I am a sinner. I need to be forgiven," he said

as tears streamed down his face. "I believe. You must tell my mother."

The teenager led Katana by the hand to his home. In his excitement, he blurted out the "good news" before the pastor even had a chance to speak. His mother accepted Christ on the spot.

As Katana was leaving, the teenager's father came running after him, yelling, "I am ready." The mother had been so excited that she had gone to tell him about Christ's love, and he ran from the fields to find Katana so he, too, could pray to receive Christ.

This family became the first members of Bethany Church, which meets under a mango tree outside Malindi, Kenya. Katana may be only 33, but he has helped start five churches among his own people group, the Giriama.

"It feels good to work doing what God commanded Christians to do," the pastor said. "The Giriama are open and receptive to the gospel right now. Our goal is to start enough churches so that everyone is within walking distance of a church."

While that may sound like a hefty goal, it has, in fact, become reality. When International Mission Board (IMB) missionaries Clay and Pat Coursey began working in the Malindi area 25 years ago, they envisioned a time when the Giriama would be self-starters — planting the seeds of Christ among their own people.

That time has come. Pastors like Katana and local Christians have caught the vision and taken over the work of starting new churches and discipling believers. With their work com-

plete, Clay and Pat will retire in August with no IMB missionaries replacing them.

The idea is to use local churches and their members to plant new churches. The main goal is to disciple local believers to take over the ministry of the missionaries.

Thirty years ago, 87% of the Giriama practiced traditional African religions such as ancestor worship and black magic. Most had never heard of Jesus Christ, let alone seen a Bible.

Because of the small response to the gospel among the Giriama, fellow missionaries thought Clay was crazy when, in 1974, he said God gave him a vision for starting 100 churches among the Giriama in the next three years. At the time, there were only six Baptist churches and very few Christians.

The couple worked hard after the revelation, visiting homes and sharing Christ with more zeal than ever. Ten more churches were started out of their effort, but few lasted.

"That's when Pat and I discovered we were not good church planters," Coursey said. "Every church we started collapsed. Every church that one of the Giriama had a direct hand in starting seemed to flourish."

A new strategy developed. Four graduates from the Baptist Seminary of East Africa in Arusha, Tanzania, teamed up with Giriama elders to evangelize area villages.

The teams traveled through the countryside giving testimonies and teaching the Bible. More than 180 churches were

started in the first year. Ninety of those churches survived and still thrive today.

By 1977, the 100 churches the Lord had promised had been planted and were in the beginning stages of laying a firm foundation. The amazed Courseys were convinced that each new church start needed to begin with local leadership instead of dependence on them.

selves grandparents and even great-grandparents of other churches. This past summer alone, more than 120 churches were started by local congregations along the east coast of Kenya.

Through the years, the Courseys have seen a lot of changes — a massive evangelization movement in the 1970s and a church-planting movement in



OPEN AND RECEPTIVE — Pastor Samuel Katana watches as volunteers lead a group of Giriama to Christ. More than 22,000 people received Christ as Savior during an evangelistic effort in Kenya in June and July 1999. (BP photo by Sue Sprenkle)

"Our churches grew up with an indigenous mentality of taking care of themselves," Coursey said. "From the very beginning they took the lead role, and we were there to educate, encourage, and support."

A series of church-planting seminars in 1984 caught the interest of 28 congregations.

That year, more than 20 new churches were started by the seminar participants. Now many churches consider them-

the 1980s. The highlight for the couple, however, came recently when the churches appointed a committee to study possibilities of evangelizing other areas and even other countries.

"In that meeting, I saw them turn from looking only at themselves and their people to looking at the world," Coursey said.

"That's what it is all about — reaching out to those who do not know Christ.

## NOBTS adds women's ministry prof

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — Trustees of New Orleans Seminary (NOBTS) approved Bayne Pounds as the first trustee-elected professor of women's ministry at a Southern Baptist seminary during their March 14-15 meeting in New Orleans.

Pounds, unanimously elected as assistant professor of the women's ministry program, currently works with the program and serves as an adjunct faculty member in the Christian education division of the college of undergraduate studies.

"This is a wonderful opportunity to work with so many women who have a heart for women's ministry," Pounds said. "Our seminary is giving validity to this vital ministry of the local church."



Ron McQuow, Ph.D.  
Minister of Counseling  
First Church, Jackson

## LifeAnswers

*My wife has gone back on her word before we were married, and now says she wants children. I don't, so where do we go from here?*

What people say before they marry sometimes changes, mainly because people change. Seek out the reasons for her change of heart — and ask yourself as well why you haven't changed. Rather than defend your position, look for areas of agreement and disagreement and pray for understanding for the changes that are taking place within your marriage, lives, and individual needs. If your wife is hoping a child will make your marriage better, it won't happen. Sure, you'll have to work together to raise the child, but a child

can also act as an unintended barrier that prevents the two of you from developing a deeper marriage. Nurture your relationship; if you do not practice such nurturing on each other, then any children born of the marriage will end up as the main focus and that is not their proper place.

*Our son's ex-wife has banned us from our terminally-ill grandson's hospital room, and our son won't get involved at all. How do we handle this mess?*

It is unfortunate that grandparents and children are made to suffer for decisions other people have made. Talk with your ex-daughter-in-law, if at

all possible. Approach her as wanting to reconcile and reach an understanding, not defend your son's actions. Let her know of your genuine love and concern for the child — not for what you can get out of it but how you can be of help at this crucial time. If that does not work, send her a simple, non-manipulative card stating your concern, prayer, and love for your grandson, her, and the situation they are facing. Be firm, love without fear, and don't give up. When you stand before Christ one day, you will want to tell him that you did your best to act as he would have acted in the same situation. That's one of the hallmarks of Christianity.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.



## FAMILY BIBLE SERIES

### Different marital standings

1 Corinthians 6:12-7:16

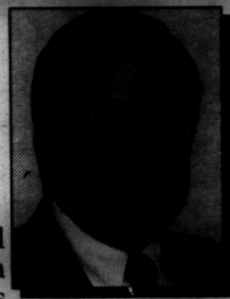
By Neel Grantham

To marry or not to marry, that may have been the question Paul was answering. In 6:12-20, the Apostle was dealing with sexual immorality and the body. The body was not to be defiled for several reasons. It was not only a sin against God, but also against one's own body. For the believer the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. We were bought with a price. Because of these things, we should "glorify God with our body."

In marriage or singleness, we should live to honor God, not to honor self. We don't live to gratify our own desires. We are instructed to be "filled with the Spirit" in Ephesians 5:18.

Temperance is listed in Galatians 5:2-23 as a fruit of the Spirit. As we live and walk in the Spirit, we should live self-controlled lives that honor God.

**Approval of singleness and marriage (7:1-2;8-9).** Keeping in mind the command to "glorify God in your body," Paul deals with the question of marriage. We don't know the exact question asked, but Paul's first words in response were, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman." Paul seems to be encouraging single abstinence. In verse 8 he said of the unmarried and widows; "It is good for them if they abide even as I." In other words, Paul knew they could glorify God easier



Grantham

Paul gives his stamp of approval to the single lifestyle as a way to glorify God in the body.

Paul seems to concede that marriage is only for those who cannot glorify God in their body as a single. It is here that we must remind ourselves of Paul's dedication to God. In Philippians 1:21 he said, "for to me to live is Christ..." Galatians 2:20 reads, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me." For Paul, life was about Christ, not self. However, it was and still is good to marry. In marriage you can also glorify God in the

body as you build your marriage on biblical principles.

**Appropriate behavior in marriage (7:3-5).** These verses teach us to put our spouses before ourselves. We have responsibilities in the area of physical relations in the marriage. We glorify God when we "render... due benevolence" to our marriage partner. That is, we should maintain a healthy sexual relationship. This is for good reasons. First, our bodies belong to our mate. Second, too long of an abstinence period may allow Satan to tempt us with immorality.

There is a time when a couple should abstain, Paul says. That is when you enter a time of fasting and prayer, seeking the Lord in a deeper way. This is done by mutual consent. After the season of prayer and fasting, the couple resumes their physical relations with one another.

We need to remember that the physical relationship in

marriage is a gift of God. Don't abuse it by denying each other for selfish reasons. Truly seek to glorify God in your marriage.

**Sanctity of marriage (7:10-16).** It is too easy today to get a divorce. Our society says if you are not happy or in some way disappointed with marriage, then get out while the getting is good. That certainly is not God's way. Paul instructs wives not to depart from their husbands and husbands not to put away, or divorce, their wives. Even if one is married to an unbeliever, remain married. The marriage is still "sanctified" if the believing spouse is living to glorify God in the marriage. Who knows? Maybe by a holy example the unbelieving spouse might get saved.

Marriage can really be tough. As we glorify God in our lives and marriage, we can experience his abundance in both. Our God is faithful!

Grantham is pastor of Pineview Church, Clinton.

## LIFE AND WORK

### What about the Judgment

Revelation 20:1-15

By Michael Jones

The question of "What will happen at the judgment?" is one of great debates throughout our convention and all other Christian denominations. There are many different ideas as to how literal Revelation 20 should be taken. There are debates on who will reign during the millennial. There are even debates as to who will or will not go through the time of tribulation. All of these differences of interpretation are centered to some extent on Revelation 20.

With that in mind, the questions for today are: in this same chapter, Revelation 20, are there

some certainties found that aren't debatable? If so, what application can we make to our lives today? Let's explore three areas of Revelation 20 that are not debatable.

**Believers will be raised (vv. 4-6).** "They came to life and reigned with Christ." The "they" John refers to are believers. Believers will be raised from the dead in order to reign with Christ. For Christians, death is not the end. It is actually just the beginning. It is the beginning of our eternal life with Christ and one day, at the judgment, it will be the begin-



Jones

ning of our reign with Christ. This is the great hope of the Christian faith. How exciting that is to know as believers.

The application for us today is one of assurance, peace, and rejoicing. Knowing we will be raised by God to reign with Christ gives us the assurance that death is not the end. This brings us peace in our lives and causes us to be able to rejoice in the inheritance that will someday be ours.

**Satan will be bound and destroyed (vv. 1-3, 7-10).** We read in these passages Satan is bound for a limited time and then released. He then goes and once again deceives people and builds an army to stand against God's people. This army is destroyed and Satan is finally thrown into the lake of fire.

Satan is never to be underes-

timated. He goes around "like a roaring lion seeking who he may devour." Although we must never forget this and must stay on guard at all times, we must also remember Satan's ultimate fate: to be bound and destroyed by Christ. In our life, when evil seems to be in control and powerful, we must remember and reaffirm that the final triumph belongs to Christ. He will win the final victory and evil will be destroyed.

**The dead will be judged (vv. 11-15).** "And each person was judged according to what he had done." There is no way to escape it — the dead shall be judged. Unbelievers need to be aware of this reality for it will be at this time they receive their punishment, eternal hell. As believers, we need to be aware of this as well. We will give an account to the Lord. Therefore, we should live a life that is

faithful to Christ. Part of this faithfulness involves telling unbelievers of the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ and about the reality of judgment if they fail to receive Christ, hell. We should be about the task of trying to win the lost while there is time.

Although there is much debate over this passage, there are still several certainties that we all can agree on. We can agree believers will be raised. This gives us reason to rejoice. We can agree Satan will ultimately be bound and destroyed. This gives us hope in knowing the final victory will be Christ's. Finally, we can agree the dead will be judged. This gives us reason to live a faithful life and tell unbelievers of this reality.

Jones is associate pastor/youth minister at Monticello Church, Monticello.

## EXPLORE THE BIBLE

### Claiming an inheritance

Joshua 14:6-15

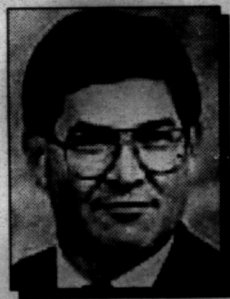
By Keith Smyser

Negativism should be avoided! Nearly 45 years had passed when we catch up with Caleb in Joshua 14. When giving the report regarding the conquest of the Promised Land (Num. 13-14) only Joshua and Caleb gave a positive report. No one remembers the ten negative people and they died in the wilderness wanderings! The majority walked by sight and the minority (Caleb and Joshua) walked by faith. This week's lesson reminds us of a spiritually healthy outlook on life and experiencing God's promise coming to pass!

**Inheritance promised (vv. 6-9).** Caleb truly was a faithful man! Scripture reminds us of

Caleb's faithfulness for over 40 years! During that period many of his contemporaries died. Caleb and Joshua had spied out the land and God promised Caleb a portion of the land he had walked those many years before. Caleb comes to Joshua as an old friend and remembers how they had walked wholeheartedly with Lord. Caleb and Joshua's lives went different paths. Both men had not seen the difficulties but saw God who would enable them to overcome all difficulties. Are there promises from God you are waiting on?

**Inheritance anticipated (vv. 10-11).** Caleb was thankful to have lived to be 85 years old!



Smyser

He had to endure the wilderness wanderings yet trusted God to do what was promised. Imagine having Caleb in your senior adult department! You would not know what to do with him. No retirement for him, no taking it easy, Caleb was eager to continue to serve God! It is a wonderful reminder that age is not a factor in serving God. In my present church we have a wonderful man who went off to take seminary classes at age 86. Now, at age 88 he is a godly influence and example as he works with three-year-olds in Sunday School!

What Calebs are in your church?

**Inheritance requested (v. 12).** What an example Caleb gives us! "Age had not hindered him, the difficulties of the past had not embittered him, and giants did not frighten him" (With the Word, Warren Wiersbe Commentary).

Perhaps Caleb's sight was slightly diminished at 85 but his vision for what God could do was strong! Caleb requested the most difficult territory to conquer. Caleb's statement of "give me this mountain" has been a great encouragement to churches facing impossible tasks! Caleb recognized the source of his victory would be God's power not his fighting or leadership abilities! We could say that Caleb believed in the promises of God, presence of God and the power of God!

What tasks, situations, or projects are you attempting that only with God's help can be completed?

**Inheritance received (vv. 13-15).** Joshua blessed Caleb because of his faithfulness and wholehearted obedience! Caleb received the requested land and God enabled him to drive out the people! What joy Caleb must have experienced in seeing the fulfillment of all that God had promised!

When my family and I

moved to our present place of service, we had a house to sell in another state. We believed God had called us to our church and trusted him to take care of the house. Days, weeks, and months passed and the house did not sell. We were now paying two house payments! We often thought, "God we trust you, but could you hurry up and sell our house?" God gave us a wonderful Christmas present some 23 months later when the house sold. God took care of us, taught us, encouraged us, and was patient with us throughout the experience. We rejoiced because truly it was God's doing!

Caleb illustrates for us a great faith in three ways! First, Caleb in faith dared to trust God in the days of great difficulty. Second, Caleb waited patiently through delays caused by sin in others. Third, Caleb acted with courage and faith in the day of opportunity!

Smyser is associate pastor of First Church, Starkville.



# So. Baptists helping Mozambicans recover

MACIA, Mozambique (BP) — When Rebecca Augusto surveys the Macia relief camp, she doesn't see the makeshift tents made out of torn tarp or children crying because of hunger. Instead, she sees a miracle.

"Without God's help, I would not have survived. Look at me! I am a cripple," Augusto said, pointing to her shriveled legs. "When the water came with such power, I got up and ran. I don't know how God did it, but I got up and ran to a tree. I am alive today because of him."

From Augusto's perch in that tree, she watched homes and churches destroyed. Since the flooding began in early February, nearly 1 million people have lost their homes in this impoverished African nation.

As the reality of what happened sinks in, Southern Baptists hurry to help soften the blow.

Southern Baptist missionary Dianne Randolph realizes that most of the aid currently circulating will meet only short-term needs.

Whereas the people are hungry now, she said they still will be hungry next year if no one helps them replant their farms.

"All of their crops were washed away. This means that not only do they not have food, but they also don't have seed to start all over," Randolph said. "If they don't replant now, the hunger could last up to 18 months or more."

According

to the World Food Program, an estimated 370,500 acres of staple food crops were wiped out while another third of the national cereal production suffered severe losses. That means hundreds of thousands of subsistence farmers must be fed until the next harvest in six months — if seeds arrive in time for planting season.

With planting season starting in April, missionaries and Baptist volunteers from the United States and South Africa put together an "agriculture bucket" to help farmers get back on their feet. The bucket contains seeds for planting everything from corn to okra. Farming tools also are included in the package, as well as New Testaments and tracts.

As part of the relief project, Randolph's team will use parables from the Bible to teach farming techniques. "The main people we are focusing on with this project are the Ndau. They are unevangelized and have been resistant," Randolph said, "but since the flooding began, we have seen many doors open."



WHAT NOW? — A mother in a Mozambique flood relief camp thinks about the desperate situation she faces. About 1 million Mozambicans are homeless because of the flooding. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

Contributions toward the relief effort in Mozambique can be sent to: International Mission Board, Hunger and Relief Fund — Mozambique Flood Relief, P.O. Box 6767, Richmond, VA 23230.



## SCRAMBLE FOR FOOD

— Refugees at Samora Michel camp struggle for relief supplies. Food and other essentials are scarce at the camp, where more than 3,000 flood victims live in tents. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)

## Bibliocipher

By Charles Marx  
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EVIDRV EVXM WZR ZCEI  
VXAA, EVXCSX FVTAA  
BZCX VTCW ETQX EVXB;  
EVIDRV EVXM SAZBU DG  
EI VXTJXC, EVXCSX KZAA  
Z UOZCR EVXB WIKC.

TBIF CZCX: EKI

Clue: B = M

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Mark Two: Twenty.

## Drinking water opens way to share 'living water'

JANTIGUE, Mozambique (BP) — The woman lay exhausted on the ground almost 10 feet from the water spigot. From the deep, muddy trail behind her, Dale Duncan guessed that she crawled until she could no longer move — all for a drink of water.

The Southern Baptist volunteer from North Carolina pulled an empty bottle from the truck and filled it up. He walked over to the elderly woman, brushed away the flies, held her head up and gave her a drink.

"This lady was near death and couldn't get to the water," Duncan said.

"Somehow she had crawled close enough to the water in hopes that someone would see her and help. Many of the people in Mozambique have gone days without clean water."

Since the Mozambique flooding began in early February, adults and children have been drinking the floodwater — a major health hazard because the torrent loosened the primitive latrines used by villages and the water is contaminated with dead bodies and animal carcasses.

A Baptist disaster relief team of volunteers from North Carolina, Texas, and Oklahoma Baptist Men responded quickly to the need for clean water. The team worked closely with the South African Baptist Union in establishing the makeshift watering hole.

Norman Wagner, project coordinator from Oklahoma,

said getting the water purifiers set up was not an easy task. Constant rain hampered the start of the project and then one of the pumps broke down.

"In the beginning, we were pumping as much mud as we were water," Wagner said. "Now we are going strong and pumping about 24 gallons a minute."

The water pumps deposit clean water in a holding pool until trucks loaded with 5,000-liter water tanks come to fill up. The project provided water for three relief

camps — numbering almost 20,000 people. Water also was given to people coming with their own containers.

"Our goal is to meet the physical needs of the Mozambicans first and then their spiritual needs," Wagner said. "After they see that we care that they have water to drink and food to eat, they will ask more questions and then we will be able to share Christ."

While the main work of the volunteer team took place on the edge of a small creek, many hopped rides with the water truck to see where the tanks ended up. Once in the camp, the water tanks were connected to a long hose and water spigot. Usually, a crowd already was formed and waiting for the precious clean water.

Missionary Scott Flowers said the clean water helped lift people's spirits. "Everyone is happier now, it is like they have their own town now — just because they have their own water," he said. "Even in places that were not heavily hit by the flood, people need clean water. These areas can't get to their water because there is no electricity to run the pumps."

Flowers sees the water he pumps as "water for life" — water that lets the people live, but also water that lets them hear about the "living water" of Jesus Christ.



THE LONG WAIT — Children sleep as this Mozambique family huddles under a shade tree at Wenela refugee camp, one of the first camps created for flood victims and temporary home to more than 5,800 refugees. Baptist volunteers purify drinking water that is distributed to the camp. (BP photo by Grace Robinette)